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Basis of Review for Water Use Applications Water Conservation Plan Requirements



just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

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All public water supply in excess of 0.5 million gallons per day (MGD) located within the South Florida Water Management District applying for an individual water use permit are required to develop and implement a water conservation plan (plan). The Basis of Review requires the following eight mandatory elements be included in the plan:

1. An ordinance limiting landscape irrigation to, at minimum, the District's year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures as specified in Rule 40E-24.201 F.A. C.
2. An ordinance requiring implementation of Florida-friendly landscaping
3. An ordinance requiring the installation of ultra-low volume plumbing fixtures in all new construction
4. An ordinance requiring a rain sensor device or automatic shut off with the purchase and installation of an automatic lawn sprinkler system
5. Adoption of water conservation rate-based structures
6. Implementation of a leak detection program when unaccounted for water losses are greater than 10%
7. Determination of the feasibility for making reclaimed water available
8. Implementation of water conservation public education programs

THE BENEFITS OF BUILDING A WATER CONSERVATION ETHIC

Developing the public's interest and commitment to water conservation can be creative and highly effective. Outreach and educational programs help build a common interest and result in greater water savings. See examples of successful programs below.

Utilities

- **Conduct Water audit(s)** – perform a comprehensive assessment at city-owned facilities; publish findings; implement recommendations.
- **Outreach to highest users** – identify highest users to discuss reducing consumption. Perform site assessments to determine water use and opportunities for savings. Provide recommendations to implement a strategic plan to begin water conservation.
- **Rebate giveaways program** – fund the replacement of high water-usage fixtures (e.g. older faucets, toilets, etc.) with high efficiency models.

Communities

- **Community events** – host events to educate local residents and visitors on the importance of water conservation. Partner with vendors, educators and local governments for conservation activities. Include native plant giveaways, water conservation products, etc.
- **Outreach to Homeowners Associations (HOAs)** – focus on responsible irrigation practices, as most potable water is used for outdoor landscaping. Provide seminars and demonstrations that showcase effective irrigation techniques and highlight the benefits of incorporating native and drought-tolerant plants.
- **Outreach to students** – teach students the importance of water conservation via presentations with emphasis on the fragility of the region's water supply.
- **Workshops** – provide hands on workshops for residents on how to make rain barrels, implement Florida-friendly landscaping and other creative water conservation tips.
- **Competitions** – introduce a water conservation competition by partnering with local businesses, in exchange for publicity, to provide donations or prizes to be awarded to a community with the highest documented water savings over a set period of time.
- **Create/enhance city web page** – provide a “fresh” look, with more and easily accessible information; link to a site created specifically for the city's water conservation program.
- **Public service announcements** – develop and broadcast radio and TV announcements, potentially using celebrity speakers such as mayors, TV news anchors or other well-known/appropriate persons of interest.

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